MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

the X-MEN

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ACTION!! SURPRISES! SUSPENSE! ALL IN THE MAGNIFICENT MARVEL MANNER!!

SEE THE MOST UNUSUAL TEEN-AGERS OF ALL TIME AT THEIR FIGHTING BEST, WHEN THEY LEARN:

"The ANGEL is TRAPPED!"

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MAGNETO and his EVIL MUTANTS, MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER, STRIKE AGAIN!

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X-MEN
THE MOST UNUSUAL TEEN-AGERS OF ALL TIME!

"TRAPPED: ONE X-MAN!"

Featuring: THE RETURN OF THE EVIL MUTANTS!

SPELL-BINDING STORY BY: STAN LEE

DAZZLING DRAWING BY: JACK KIRBY

INKING: PAUL REINMAN
LETTERING: S. ROSEN

LAST ISSUE, WHILE BATTLING MAGNETO AND HIS EVIL MUTANTS, PROFESSOR XAVIER WAS INJURED AND SEEMED TO HAVE LOST HIS GREAT MENTAL POWERS! NOW, THE SADDENED X-MEN RETURN TO THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS...

NEVER HAVE YOU, THE READING PUBLIC, BEEN SO INSTANTLY FASCINATED BY A GROUP OF SUPER-POWERFUL VILLAINS AS LAST ISSUE, WHEN YOU MET MAGNETO'S EVIL MUTANTS! NOW, WE PRESENT THEM AGAIN... MORE EXCITING, MORE UNPREDICTABLE, MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!!

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AND NOW, LET'S JOIN THE X-MEN AS THEY RETURN TO THEIR SCHOOL BUILDING! ICEMAN FINDS THE DOOR LOCKED, AND...

I CAN'T GET MY KEY UNLESS I DEFROST! HEY, CYCLOPS...I CAN *USE* YOU!

HIT THE KEYHOLE WITH THAT POWER BEAM OF YOURS TO UNLOCK THE DOOR, HUH? *HEY!* NOT SO FAST! IF YOU MISS THE *DOOR*, IT'S GOODBYE ICEMAN!

BOY! IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK AGAIN! IF ONLY THE PROFESSOR WAS OKAY!

I'LL LIFT HIM INTO HIS SITTING ROOM! IT'S THE EASIEST WAY!

SLOWLY, JEAN...YOU'VE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD! DON'T JOSTLE HIM!

LET ME REMOVE HIS JACKET BEFORE YOU PUT HIM DOWN! YOU DID AN EXEMPLARY JOB, MARVEL GIRL!

NOW... SET HIM DOWN! GENTLY.. GENTLY...

I'VE CHECKED THE ENTIRE BUILDING! EVERYTHING'S AS WE LEFT IT! WE HAVEN'T BEEN DISCOVERED YET!

IT SURE SEEMS STRANGE TO SEE HIM SLEEPING THAT WAY, JUST LIKE ANY NORMAL HOMO SAPIENS! IT MAKES ME FEEL SO... ALONE...

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, ICEMAN! FROM NOW ON WE *WILL* BE ALONE, FOR THE FIRST TIME!.. WITHOUT THE PROFESSOR TO GUIDE US AND HELP US!

HE'S SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS TRAINING US TO USE OUR POWERS, JEAN! NOW, WE'VE GOT TO PROVE WE WERE *WORTHY* OF THAT TRAINING!

WE'VE GOT TO *CONTINUE* HIS FIGHT AGAINST THE EVIL MUTANTS! BUT WITHOUT HIM TO LEAD US IT'LL BE AN UPHILL JOB, HANK!

WE CAN'T *REMAIN* LEADERLESS! PERHAPS WE SHOULD.. *WAIT!* I HEAR A SOUND IN THE DRIVE-WAY! A *CAR* IS APPROACHING!

WHO *IS* IT, BEAST? HAVE THE EVIL MUTANTS FOUND US?

NO...IT APPEARS TO BE... IT *IS*... IT'S MARVEL GIRL'S *PARENTS!!*

I *FORGOT!* THEY *SAID* THEY'D DROP IN FOR A VISIT ON THE WAY TO THE WORLD'S FAIR SITE! QUICK... WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO NORMAL!

MOVE, GUYS! LET'S SHED THESE COSTUMES ON THE DOUBLE!

DON'T WORRY, JEAN! WE WON'T GIVE OUR SECRET AWAY!

IT'LL ONLY TAKE ME A FEW SECONDS TO DEFROST AND CHANGE FROM *ICEMAN* TO PLAIN BOBBY DRAKE!

MARVEL

IT'S GREAT THE WAY THE PROFESSOR DEVELOPED THIS HARNESS TO HIDE MY WINGS UNDER A SUIT!

SO ONCE AGAIN THE *ANGEL* BECOMES THAT DEVIL-MAY-CARE YOUNG BLUE-BLOOD, WARREN WORTHINGTON THE THIRD!

I'M ALWAYS RELIEVED WHEN I CAN DIVEST MYSELF OF MY COSTUME! ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY CARE FOR THE IDENTITY OF THE *BEAST!*

I MUCH PREFER BEING HANK McCOY, HONOR STUDENT... ALTHOUGH FATE NEVER LETS ME REMAIN THAT WAY FOR LONG!

I WONDER IF ANYONE WOULD DARE COME NEAR QUIET SCOTT SUMMERS IF THEY KNEW THAT WHEN I REMOVE MY PROTECTIVE GLASSES, THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER BEAM OF *CYCLOPS* IS UNLEASHED UPON THE WORLD!

AS FAR AS ANY OF OUR PARENTS KNOW, WE ARE ALL STUDENTS AT A PROGRESSIVE PRIVATE SCHOOL! AND ACTUALLY, THAT MUCH IS *TRUE!*

BUT, BEING NORMAL HOMO SAPIENS, HOW COULD MOM OR DAD UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR DAUGHTER, JEAN GREY, IS REALLY *MARVEL GIRL!*

HELLO, JEAN DEAR! WE'VE ONLY A FEW MINUTES, BUT WE *DID* WANT TO VISIT YOU!

MOTHER! DAD! WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE!

MOMENTS LATER, AFTER INTRODUCING HER "FELLOW STUDENTS"...

A REAL PLEASURE MEETING YOU, MR. AND MRS. GREY! WE'RE SORRY PROFESSOR XAVIER CAN'T BE WITH US, BUT HE'S, EH, UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED!

I UNDERSTAND, MY BOY! I FEEL I KNOW YOU ALL SO WELL! THE PROFESSOR WRITES TO US EVERY WEEK, TELLING OF YOUR PROGRESS! HE IS CERTAINLY A WONDERFUL MAN!

WHEN HE FIRST ASKED IF JEAN COULD ATTEND YOUR SCHOOL, WE WERE A BIT HESITANT! BUT THEN, WHEN WE WERE CONTACTED BY ***WASHINGTON, D.C.***, RECOMMENDING YOUR COURSE SO HIGHLY, WE KNEW IT WAS THE BEST THING FOR OUR DAUGHTER!

AND WE WERE SO IMPRESSED TO LEARN THAT SOME OF YOUR COURSES ARE CLASSIFIED ***TOP SECRET*** BY THE GOVERNMENT!

OH, WHAT INTERESTING SUN-GLASSES! I'VE NEVER ***SEEN*** THAT TYPE...

NO! DON'T TOUCH THEM!! I-I'M SORRY, MA'AM... IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE A SLIGHT EYE INFECTION! I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND!

MUST CHANGE THE SUBJECT QUICKLY, LEST WE AROUSE THEIR SUSPICIONS!

WE'D ENJOY SHOWING YOU OUR BUILDING, MR. AND MRS. GREY! THIS IS OUR GYM! WE'RE GETTING NEW EQUIPMENT NEXT WEEK!

OH, I ***WONDERED*** WHY IT WAS SO EMPTY!

CLEVER OF HANK! HE COULDN'T VERY WELL ADMIT THAT THIS IS OUR ***DANGER ROOM***, WHERE WE TRAIN!

AND NOW, IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE OUR LUNCHROOM, AND STUDY HALL...

WAIT!! DON'T SHUT THAT DOOR!

TOO LATE! THEY FORGOT ABOUT ME! THE DOOR'S TIME LOCK HAS ME TRAPPED INSIDE!

BUT THE "DANGER APPARATUS" IS SET ON AUTOMATIC! THAT MEANS THE TESTING DEVICES WILL BEGIN TO OPERATE ANY SECOND!

THEY'VE ***STARTED!*** IT WAS THE ***BEAST'S*** TRAINING PERIOD NEXT! THESE ARE ***HIS*** SPECIAL SURVIVAL PROBLEMS! CAN ***I*** HANDLE THEM?

THE *FLOOR* JUST SNAPPED UP...TO TEST THE BEAST'S AGILITY.!

GRABBING THIS *TRAPEZE* MAY SAVE ME!

IT WAS THE *WRONG* MOVE! THE TRAPEZE WAS A *DUMMY*... IT SNAPPED! THE BEAST WOULD HAVE *LEAPED* TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM! WH..WHAT'S *THIS??*

A GIANT IRON *ROLLER* RUSHING TOWARDS ME! CAN'T DODGE IT THE WAY THE BEAST MIGHT! ONLY TIME FOR ONE THING...

HATE TO DESTROY THAT EXPENSIVE PIECE OF APPARATUS WITH MY POWER BEAM... BUT I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE! *NONE* OF US ARE AS QUICK ON OUR FEET AS THE BEAST!

THEN, AS THE REMAINING MINUTES OF THE TEST PERIOD TICK BY...

MY POWER BEAM IS GROWING WEAKER! IF THE TEST DOESN'T END SOON I'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MENACING INNOCENT PEOPLE WITH MY EYES AGAIN!

BUT FORTUNATELY FOR SCOTT SUMMERS...AND FOR THE WORLD AT LARGE...THE TEST *DOES* SOON END! AND THE AUTOMATIC LOCK MECHANISM UNLATCHES THE DOOR...

IT'S *OVER!* LUCKY THE DANGER ROOM IS SOUND-PROOFED! JEAN'S PARENTS COULDN'T HAVE HEARD ANYTHING!

TYPICAL OF THE CALIBER OF THE X-MEN IS THE FACT THAT EVEN IN HIS MOMENT OF TRIAL, THE YOUTH KNOWN AS *CYCLOPS* THINKS FIRST OF OTHERS!

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LATER...

SUCH A LOVELY SCHOOL! AND WHAT FINE, CLEAN-CUT YOUNGSTERS! IT WAS A MOST PLEASANT VISIT!

WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF OUR DAUGHTER! IMAGINE WINNING A FREE SCHOLARSHIP TO A GREAT SCHOOL LIKE THAT!

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BUT AS MR. AND MRS. GREY DRIVE OFF, THEY FAIL TO NOTICE A SILENT, BROODING FIGURE WHO SLOWLY WALKS PAST THE MYSTERIOUS COMPLEX OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS...

SORRY WE COULDN'T SAY HELLO TO PROFESSOR XAVIER! HE'S SUCH A *CHARMING* MAN!

HE HAS *MORE* THAN CHARM, DEAR! SOMETHING ABOUT HIM GIVES A PERSON A FEELING OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM... HE ALMOST SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *THINKING!*

I *WOULD* LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE SCHOOL'S CONNECTION WITH THE *GOVERNMENT* IS! PERHAPS THEY'RE TEACHING A SPECIAL SECRET SCIENCE COURSE! OH, WELL, I SUPPOSE WE'LL FIND OUT *SOME* DAY!

AND AS THE CAR DRIVES AWAY, THE LONE PEDESTRIAN STOPS, SEARCHING, SEEKING, PROBING THE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH COLD MERCILESS UNBLINKING EYES...

FOR *THIS* IS THE EVIL MUTANT KNOWN AS *MASTERMIND*... WITH POWER TO CREATE IMAGES SO REAL THAT ALL WHO SEE THEM BELIEVE IN THEM! *MASTERMIND*, WHO OWES HIS ALLEGIANCE TO *MAGNETO*, LEADER OF THOSE WHO PLAN TO TAKE DOMINION OF EARTH FROM THE HUMAN RACE!

IT'S NO USE! THE *X-MEN* ARE TOO WELL HIDDEN! NO MATTER WHERE I SEARCH THERE IS NO TRACE OF THEM!

THEN, OPERATING A SMALL MAGNETIC DEVICE ON HIS WRIST, *MASTERMIND* CONTACTS HIS LEADER...

RESULTS STILL NEGATIVE, MAGNETO! AWAITING FURTHER ORDERS!

RETURN AT ONCE! WE SHALL TRY A DIFFERENT PLAN! THAT IS ALL!

THEN, MOMENTS LATER, IN A LONELY FIELD...

IT'S LUCKY THAT ALL OF MAGNETO'S PLANES OPERATE ON *MAGNETIC ENERGY!* THERE'S NO CHANCE OF ANYONE HEARING THEM!

TAKE ME BACK TO HEAD-QUARTERS, QUICKSILVER! I HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN!

YOU DON'T FOOL *ME*, MASTERMIND! I WAS TUNED IN TO YOUR WAVELENGTH! IT WAS *MAGNETO* WHO DECIDED... AS ALWAYS!

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MINUTES LATER, THE SILENT SHIP REACHES A JAGGED ASTEROID, CIRCLING THE EARTH! BUT, UPON DRAWING NEAR, WE SEE THAT IT IS MORE THAN JUST A SIMPLE ASTEROID... MUCH, MUCH MORE!

QUICKSILVER TO ASTEROID M! REQUEST PERMISSION TO LAND! OVER!

ASTEROID M TO QUICKSILVER! PERMISSION GRANTED! FOLLOW LANDING PLAN B!

WITHIN SECONDS, TWO DRAMATIC FIGURES STEP THROUGH THE AIR-LOCK...

THEY'RE *HERE*, MAGNETO! I'LL GO AND *WELCOME* THEM!

LOOK OUT! IT'S THAT BRAINLESS *TOAD!*

DID YOU *FIND* THEM? DID YOU DESTROY THE *X-MEN?* TELL ME, TELL ME!!

MOVING AT DAZZLING SPEED, THE MUTANT CALLED *QUICKSILVER* EASILY AVOIDS THE TOAD'S UNORTHODOX "GREETING," BUT THE SLOWER-MOVING MASTERMIND IS NOT SO FORTUNATE!

BLAST THAT UNBEARABLE FREAK! HE'LL *PAY* FOR THIS!

AT A SINGLE GESTURE FROM THE ANGRY MUTANT, AN IMAGE IS CREATED! AN ILLUSION WHICH SEEMS SO REAL THAT IT STOPS THE TOAD IN HIS TRACKS!

C-CAN'T *MOVE!* I'M ALL WRAPPED UP IN A HEAVY CLOTH! GET ME *OUT* OF HERE!! *HELP!!*

THEN, AS THE TOAD'S HYSTERICAL CRY REACHES THE EARS OF... *MAGNETO*...

MASTERMIND!! DISPEL YOUR ILLUSION! *INSTANTLY!* AT THE COMMAND OF *MAGNETO!!*

THERE, IT'S GONE! BUT WARN YOUR BRAINLESS STOOGE THAT I WON'T BE SO GENTLE NEXT TIME!

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THAT, MASTER! PUNISH HIM! *PUNISH HIM!*

SILENCE, BOTH OF YOU!! WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS THAN YOUR OWN PETTY BICKERING!

AFTER WEEKS OF SEARCHING, WE HAVE STILL FOUND NO TRACES OF OUR MORTAL ENEMIES, THE ***X-MEN!***

IT'S ***THEIR*** FAULT! THEY'RE ALL ***FAILURES!*** ONLY ***I*** AM TRULY LOYAL TO YOU, MASTER!

YOU SAID YOU HAD A ***NEW*** PLAN! WHAT IS IT?

I WILL TELL YOU IN MY OWN GOOD TIME! MEANWHILE, ***YOU*** BE SILENT, DO YOU ***UNDERSTAND,*** TOAD??

Y-YES, MASTER! WHATEVER YOU SAY, MAGNETO!

I SAY ***FORGET*** THE X-MEN! WE ESCAPED THEM ONCE... THEY WON'T BOTHER US AGAIN!

I AGREE WITH MY BROTHER, QUICKSILVER! WE SHOULD...

QUIET! REMEMBER YOUR PLACE!! NOT EVEN THE ***SCARLET WITCH*** NOR ***QUICKSILVER*** CAN DICTATE TO MAGNETO! I ALONE MAKE THE DECISIONS FOR OUR BAND!

SO LONG AS THE X-MEN LIVE... SO LONG AS THEY ARE SWORN TO PROTECT MANKIND...THEN WE ARE NEVER TRULY SAFE! ONLY ***THEY*** STAND BETWEEN US AND THE CONQUEST OF THE HUMAN RACE!

AND REMEMBER...THE HUMANS ARE YOUR SWORN ENEMIES! THEY WOULD ***DESTROY*** YOU IF THEY COULD!

WE REMEMBER! YOU NEVER ***LET*** US FORGET THAT, DO YOU?

NEVER!! AND NOW FOR MY PLAN! I SHALL USE THE ***TOAD*** TO TRAP THE X-MEN! COME ***HERE,*** YOU SNIVELLING DOLT!

ME, MASTER? WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO ***DO?*** TELL ME..!

OF *COURSE* I'LL TELL YOU! AND IF YOU FAIL... IF YOU MAKE ONE CARELESS MISTAKE... YOU'LL FACE THE WRATH OF *MAGNETO,* MOST POWERFUL OF *ALL* THE MUTANTS!

NEVER FORGET THAT.. *ANY* OF YOU!!

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, BACK AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

SAY, SCOTT... THERE'S A GREAT *TRACK MEET* ON T.V.! HOW ABOUT WATCHING IT WITH US?

TRACK MEET! PROFESSOR X HAS LOST HIS POWERS! WE DON'T KNOW *WHEN* THE EVIL MUTANTS WILL STRIKE NEXT! AND ALL YOU HAVE ON YOUR JUVENILE MIND IS A *TRACK MEET!?*

OKAY! OKAY! I CAN TAKE A HINT!

SLAM!

AND *DON'T COME BACK* UNTIL YOU GROW UP!!

BOY! WOTTA *GROUCH!* THAT GUY THINKS IT'S A *SIN* TO SMILE OR HAVE ANY FUN!

DON'T TAKE UMBRAGE AT CYCLOPS, BOBBY! HE CAN'T ALTER HIS PSYCHO-LOGICAL MAKE-UP!

C'MON IN, HANK! HAVE SOME HOT CHOCOLATE! WAIT'LL YOU SEE THIS RACE!

THERE, PROFESSOR! YOU DON'T WANT TO GET A CHILL WHILE WATCHING T.V.! YOU'LL BE MORE COMFORTABLE NOW!

POOR PROFESSOR X! HOW LAMENTABLE THAT HIS ONCE SUPER-BRILLIANT BRAIN IS NOW MERELY THAT OF A NORMAL HUMAN'S!

LOOK! THERE'S THE FELLA I WANTED YOU TO SEE! HE'S BRINGING UP THE REAR! DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HIM!

WHAT'S SO *SPECIAL* ABOUT HIM? HE'S THE SLOWEST ONE OF ALL! HE RUNS *TERRIBLY!*

IT'S NOT HIS *RUNNING* THAT'S IMPORTANT! KEEP WATCHING... YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN ANY SECOND NOW!

THERE!! THERE HE GOES!! LOOK AT THAT!! DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE IT?? HE'S BEEN WINNING EVERY EVENT BY HOPPING OVER THE OTHERS!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

YOU'RE RIGHT, WARREN! IT'S UNCANNY! NO NORMAL PERSON COULD MAKE A LEAP LIKE THAT!!

LOOK AT THE CROWD! THEY CAN'T BELIEVE THEIR EYES! EVEN THE PEOPLE ON THE FIELD ARE INCREDULOUS!

HE'S COMPETING IN EVERY EVENT! WOW!! A BROADJUMP LIKE THAT WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE THE WORLD RECORD!

OKAY...TELL ME! ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING??

OF COURSE! THERE'S NO OTHER ANSWER! HE'S A MUTANT...LIKE WE ARE! HE HAS TO BE!

AND LOOK AT THE CROWD! THEY'RE LIVID WITH RAGE! JUST LIKE PROFESSOR X ALWAYS WARNED US... NORMAL HUMANS FEAR AND DISTRUST ANYONE WITH SUPER-MUTANT POWERS!

THEY'RE CALLING HIM "FAKE"! THEY FEEL IT MUST BE A TRICK OF SOME SORT...THEY WANT TO BELIEVE THAT... IT MAKES THEM FEEL LESS INFERIOR!

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM THERE TO FACE THE WRATH OF THE MOB ALONE! SHUT OFF THE SET! LET'S MOVE!

HANK'S RIGHT! IF HE'S A FELLOW MUTANT, WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!

WE'VE GOT TO HELP ANYONE WHO'S IN TROUBLE! THAT'S OUR OATH!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE *PROFESSOR??*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *ME*, MY DEAR! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT HERE! JUST REMEMBER.. I CAN'T FOLLOW YOU MENTALLY! I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU!

WE'LL DO OKAY, SIR! WE'LL MAKE YOU PROUD OF US... YOU'LL SEE!

MEANWHILE, AT THE STADIUM NEARBY, THE MOB GROWS ANGRIER BY THE MINUTE...

THE RACES WERE ALL *PHONY!* LET'S TEACH THAT FRAUD HE CAN'T TRICK *US!!*

WE'LL MAKE HIM *TELL* US HOW HE DID IT! IT *HAS* TO BE SOME KIND OF *HOAX!*

THEN, JUST AS THE SHOUTING CROWD IS ABOUT TO CLOSE IN ---

HEY! WHA...??

DON'T SQUIRM, FELLA! YOU'RE HEAVY ENOUGH!

HE'S TOO HEAVY! THE ANGEL CAN'T FLY FAR ENOUGH WITH HIM! I'LL HAVE TO HOLD THE CROWD BACK TO GIVE HIM A RESPITE!

TAKE A BREATHER, ANGEL! I'LL ACT AS A BUFFER FOR YOU!

THANKS, BEAST! I CAN USE THE BREAK!!

THEN, AS THE ANGEL TAKES TO THE AIR AGAIN...

THE CAR WON'T HELP US, MARVEL GIRL! THE CROWD IS PRESSING IN FROM ALL SIDES! WE CAN'T RUN THEM DOWN!

WHAT WILL WE *DO?* WE CAN'T LET THAT MUTANT BE TAKEN FROM US!

I..I CAN'T STAY ALOFT WITH HIM MUCH LONGER!

WE'VE ONLY *ONE* RECOURSE... *RUN!!*

THIS ICE-WALL WON'T HOLD THEM BACK FOREVER!

SEEING THE STRANGE, COLORFUL FIGURES RACING TOWARDS THEM, THE CROWD FALLS BACK FOR A MOMENT IN SHOCK, GIVING THE X-MEN AND THEIR FELLOW MUTANT A CHANCE TO GET CLEAR...

THERE'S A SUBWAY STATION JUST AHEAD... HURRY!!

HOP IN... *QUICKLY!* WE'LL HOLD THE DOORS OPEN! THIS WAS A VERITABLE HAIRSBREADTH ESCAPE!

ALL CLEAR! ONCE WE'RE IN THE TRAIN WE'LL BE SAFE!

L-LOOK! LOOK WHO IT *IS!!*

SEE HOW EVERYONE IS *STARING* AT US!

IGNORE IT, MARVEL GIRL! WE PAID OUR FARE JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE!

THERE'S SOMETHING VAGUELY *FAMILIAR* ABOUT YOU, MY FRIEND! SOMETHING *DISTURBINGLY* FAMILIAR!

IMPOSSIBLE! I NEVER MET YOU BEFORE!

WAIT! NOW I KNOW! THE WAY YOU *HOPPED!* ONLY ONE MUTANT HAS THAT ABILITY... THE *EVIL* ONE CALLED... *THE TOAD!!*

DON'T, BEAST! YOU'LL *HURT* HIM... *SAY!* IT *IS* THE TOAD!

BLAST YOU! I ALMOST HAD YOU FOOLED!

BUT YOU CAN'T *HOLD* ME! I'LL ESCAPE FROM *ALL* OF YOU!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN MAGNETO'S SCHEME TO FIND OUR HEAD-QUARTERS! HE WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED IF WE HAD TAKEN THE TOAD *BACK* WITH US! *GET HIM...*

DON'T BE ALARMED! THERE'S NO PLACE HE CAN HOP TO WHERE I CAN'T FLY AFTER HIM!

YOU'RE RIGHT, ANGEL! BUT JUST TO PLAY SAFE, I'LL SLOW HIM UP A LITTLE... LIKE *THIS!*

HAH! CLUMSY FOOL... YOU *MISSED* ME!

THAT WAS THE *IDEA*, PLAYMATE! I WANTED MY ICE DISC TO HIT THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF YOU! PRETTY NEAT, EH?

WHY DON'T YOU *ANSWER* ME? UNLESS YOU'D RATHER KEEP SPINNING AROUND THAT WAY! BETTER GET HIM, ANGEL... HE MUST BE DIZZY ENOUGH BY NOW!

NICE TRY, TOAD... BUT YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK YOU COULD BEAT THE *X-MEN*, DID YOU?

SUDDENLY, AT THAT SPLIT SECOND, A STARTLING INCIDENT OCCURS! THE HUGE CLOCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STATION *FLIES APART*... AS THOUGH UNDER THE CONTROL OF SOME MIGHTY, WRATHFUL *MAGNETIC POWER!*

ANGEL!! LOOK OUT!! THOSE METAL PIECES ARE FLYING TOWARDS YOU LIKE *BULLETS!*

WHEW! GOOD THING THE PROFESSOR GAVE ME SO MUCH AGILITY—PRACTICE IN THE PAST!

AND THEN, ONE OF THE MOST AWESOME OF ALL LIVING MENACES APPEARS ON THE SCENE... THE MERCILESS *MAGNETO!!*

THE TOAD ALONE IS NO MATCH FOR THE *X-MEN*... BUT *MAGNETO* IS!

AT A GESTURE FROM THE EVIL MUTANT, ONE OF THE HEAVY IRON TRAIN GATES RISES ABOVE THE SPEECHLESS CROWD...

...AND RACES THROUGH THE AIR, TRAPPING THE ANGEL WITHIN A QUICKLY-FORMED IRON CAGE!

HOLD ONTO THE TOAD, CYCLOPS! I'LL GET UNDER THE ANGEL AND TRY TO WREST THOSE IRON BARS FROM HIM WHEN HE FALLS!

BE *CAREFUL*, BEAST! ONLY *MAGNETO* COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS ...AND WE'VE NEVER *FOUGHT* HIM BEFORE WITHOUT THE HELP OF PROFESSOR X!!

BUT, THERE ARE STILL *MORE* EVIL MUTANTS TO CONTEND WITH... SUCH AS THE *SCARLET WITCH*, WHO DIRECTS HER INCREDIBLE *HEX POWER* AT A MAN STANDING NEAR THE ONRUSHING BEAST...

HEY! WH-WHAT MADE MY SUITCASE SNAP OPEN THAT WAY???

LOOK OUT! CAN'T STOP MYSELF... *OOF!!*

MEANTIME, *MASTERMIND* HAS CHOSEN THE *ICEMAN* AS HIS SPECIAL TARGET...

HOLY SMOKE... A DOZEN MASTERMINDS SURROUNDING ME! IT MUST BE AN ILLUSION! BUT HOW DO I KNOW WHICH ONE IS *REAL*??

WELL, THERE'S *ONE* WAY TO FIND OUT! I'LL MAKE MYSELF AN *ICE CLUB*... TAKE A SWING, AND SEE WHO FALLS!!!

BUT, BEFORE THE ICEMAN CAN COMPLETE HIS ATTACK, HE IS ENGULFED BY A CLINGING CLOUD WHICH SEEMS TO STIFLE HIS MOVEMENTS...

EVEN THOUGH I *KNOW* IT'S ANOTHER ILLUSION, IT'S BLINDING ME JUST AS MUCH AS IF IT WERE *REAL!*

BUT THEN, *MARVEL GIRL* DRAMATICALLY ENTERS THE FRAY...

I'LL KEEP YOU SO BUSY THAT YOU WON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR ANY MORE ILLUSIONS, MASTERMIND!

NO!! DON'T LET ME *FALL!*

BUT THEN, THINGS HAPPEN WITH DAZZLING SPEED! THE LIGHTNING-SWIFT **QUICKSILVER** ATTACKS **CYCLOPS** FROM BEHIND, FREEING THE **TOAD!** SHOCKED, **MARVEL GIRL** TURNS AWAY FROM **MASTERMIND** TO COME TO **CYCLOPS'** AID...

RUN, TOAD! **I'LL** HANDLE CYCLOPS!!

OH, NO! I MUSTN'T LET CYCLOPS BE INJURED!!

HAH! I'M SAFELY FREE OF THE OF THE GIRL'S POWER!

BUT **CYCLOPS** IS FAR LESS HELPLESS THAN IT WOULD APPEAR...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **ME**, MARVEL GIRL! I'M NOT LETTING GO OF THE TOAD! AND QUICKSILVER WON'T HANG AROUND WHEN I AIM MY **POWER BEAM** HIS WAY!

KEEP YOUR EYE ON HIM! WATCH WHERE HE RUNS!

BLAST IT! I DIDN'T REALIZE HE COULD USE HIS POWER BEAM WHILE I WAS HOLDING HIS ARMS! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF RANGE!

ONLY MY GREAT SPEED IS SAVING ME FROM THOSE POWERFUL BLASTS! ANY **ONE** OF THEM COULD PUT ME OUT OF THE FIGHT!!

HOWEVER, WHILE THE **X-MEN** WORRY ABOUT THE SAFETY OF EACH OF THEIR MEMBERS, THINGS ARE QUITE DIFFERENT AMONG MAGNETO'S **EVIL MUTANTS!!**

FORGET THE TOAD! **RUN!** WE HAVE THE **ANGEL!** I'LL SWAP HIM FOR THAT HIGH-JUMPING FOOL **ANY** DAY!

QUICKSILVER! HURRY... FOLLOW US!

THEY'VE ABDUCTED THE **ANGEL!**

USING HIM AS A **HOSTAGE**, MAGNETO WILL HAVE AN INSURMOUNTABLE ADVANTAGE OVER US!

THE **BEAST** IS GAINING ON US! QUICK, MASTERMIND... WE NEED AN ILLUSION!

HE'LL NEVER REACH US! I'LL STOP HIM WITH... **THIS** ...

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, A CHARGING RHINOCEROS SEEMS TO COME HURTLING THROUGH THE ASTONISHED CROWD ... A WILD BEAST WHICH EXISTS ONLY IN THE IMAGINATIONS OF THOSE AFFECTED BY MASTERMIND'S UNCANNY POWER ...

THE CROWD IS *PANICKING!* I CAN'T GET PAST WITHOUT INJURING SOMEONE! *MARVEL GIRL!* CAN YOU LIFT ME OVER THEM VIA TELEKINESES??

I'LL *TRY!* OHHH, NO... YOU'RE TOO HEAVY! CAN'T LIFT YOU FAR ENOUGH!

MEANTIME, OUTSIDE THE TERMINAL, A MAGNETICALLY-POWERED SHIP SILENTLY DESCENDS TO EARTH ...

AND BY THE TIME THE CROWD WITHIN HAS DISPERSED...

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!!

I COULDN'T REACH THEM IN TIME! THEY'VE ABDUCTED THE ANGEL! I'VE *FAILED!!*

DON'T REPROACH YOURSELF, BEAST! WE'RE *ALL* TO BLAME! BUT THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER YET!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AT MAGNETO'S ASTEROID, ORBITING ABOVE THE EARTH ...

TELL ME WHERE THE X-MEN'S HEADQUARTERS IS, ANGEL! ONCE I FIND PROFESSOR X, I'LL SET YOU FREE!

I'LL TELL YOU ONLY *ONE* THING, MISTER... DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH WAITING FOR ME TO CRACK!

YOU YOUNG FOOL! DO YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU THWART ME *NOW?* ONLY *DEATH* WILL FREE YOU FROM ME! YOU'LL *HAVE* TO TALK!

MAGNETO! YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT! YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT WE WOULD EVER DESCEND TO *MURDER!!*

SPARE ME YOUR WEAK WHIMPERINGS, GIRL! I WILL STOP AT *NOTHING* TO ACHIEVE MASTERY OF EARTH...AND ONLY THE *X-MEN* STAND IN MY WAY!

I'VE GOT TO HOLD OUT! NO MATTER *WHAT* HE DOES TO ME, I MUSTN'T BETRAY THE OTHERS! NOT EVEN IF I PAY FOR MY SILENCE WITH MY *LIFE*!!

IN THE MOMENTS THAT FOLLOW, MAGNETO SUBJECTS THE TIGHT-LIPPED ANGEL TO HIS OWN UNIQUE FORM OF BRAINWASHING!

THOSE FLASHING LIGHT BEAMS WON'T HARM HIM PHYSICALLY, BUT THEY'LL PREVENT HIM FROM RESTING SO LONG AS HE'S HERE!

AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THOSE HIGH-PITCHED SIRENS BECOME SO UNBEARABLE TO HIS EARS THAT HE'LL TELL ME *ANYTHING* I WANT TO KNOW!

FLYING TO THE CEILING WON'T HELP YOU, ANGEL! I CAN SEAL MY DEVICES BEHIND THAT METAL DOOR WHILE THE NOISE CONTINUES UNABATED!

I MUSTN'T WEAKEN! NO MATTER *WHAT*... I MUSTN'T WEAKEN!

AND AS THE HOURS TICK SLOWLY BY...

WHAT MANNER OF MAN *IS* THE ANGEL? WHAT IS THE SECRET OF PROFESSOR X'S TRAINING?? WHY CAN'T I BREAK HIS WILL?? WHY DOES HE RESIST ME ??!!

MEANWHILE, AT A DESERTED PIER ON THE EAST RIVER...

WE CAN'T SET THE TOAD FREE...BUT WE CAN'T TAKE HIM TO OUR HQ, IN CASE MAGNETO IS SCANNING US WITH SOME SORT OF MAGNETIC SPY DEVICE!

LOOK! SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE *WRONG* WITH HIM! SEE HOW HE'S TREMBLING!

I'VE GOT TO RETURN TO MAGNETO! I MUST RETURN!

HE KEEPS MUMBLING TO HIMSELF...

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH HE'S IN A VIRTUAL TRANCE! HE SEEMS OBLIVIOUS TO OUR PRESENCE... LIKE A MAN POSSESSED!!

LET'S LEAVE HIM ALONE! LET HIM TALK! WE'LL SEE WHAT HE DOES! IF IT'S NOT A TRICK, HE MAY LEAD US TO MAGNETO!

MAGNETO! I'VE GOT TO RETURN TO MAGNETO! SOMETHING IS *LEADING* ME TO HIM! I CANNOT RESIST!

DON'T LET HIM GO TOO FAR FROM US! IT MAY BE A *RUSE*! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE *DUPED*!

EASY, BEAST! HE WON'T GET AWAY FROM US!

GOSH, HE'S LIKE A GUY IN A *TRANCE*! IT'S REAL CREEPY!

LOOK! HE HAD A HIDDEN MAGNETIC COMMUNI-CATOR UNDER HIS SOCK! HE'S CONTACTING MAGNETO WITH IT!!

AND MAGNETO GOT THE MESSAGE!! HERE COMES A DRONE PICK-UP CAPSULE... FROM ABOVE THE CLOUDS!

QUICKLY! WE'VE GOT TO ENTER IT WITH THE TOAD! EVEN IF IT'S A TRAP, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SHIRK! IT MAY BE OUR ONE CHANCE TO FIND THE ANGEL!

AND WHEN WE DO FIND HIM, WE MUST PRAY THAT OUR POWER IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THE EVIL MUTANTS!

THERE'S MAGNETO'S HIDEOUT!! THAT ASTEROID ABOVE US!! THE CAPSULE IS BEING DRAWN TO AN OPENING BY A BAND OF MAGNETIC FORCE!!

SECONDS LATER...

TOAD!! HOW'D YOU ESCAPE THE X-MEN?? HOW'D YOU GET HERE??

I... HAD... TO... COME...

DID YOU HEAR THAT?? THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING HIM! IT'S NOT A TRAP! LET'S GO!!

FORGIVE THIS UNSEEMLY INTRUSION, MASTERMIND! BUT BEING WELL-BEHAVED LITTLE X-MEN, WE HATED TO TAKE OUR DEPARTURE WITHOUT SAYING GOOD-BYE!

ATTACK ME, WILL YOU?? LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU FIGHT NOW... WHEN YOU FEEL YOUR LEGS TURNING TO DOUGH!

DON'T LET HIM STOP YOU, BEAST! IT'S JUST ANOTHER OF HIS ILLUSIONS!

MY BRAIN IS AWARE OF THAT... BUT I STILL CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS!

BUT YOU'LL FIND THAT *THIS* IS NO ILLUSION!

SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST MENTAL CONTACT, MASTERMIND! MY REFLEXES ARE FASTER THAN YOURS!

IF YOU THREATEN *ONE* X-MAN, YOU THREATEN US *ALL!* THAT GUN WILL NEVER MENACE US AGAIN!

BLAM!

QUICK, TOAD...TO MAGNETO! *WE* CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALONE!

TO MAGNETO!! HOORAY!! THE *LEADER* WILL SAVE US! THE *LEADER* CAN DO ANYTHING!

MAGNETO!! RIGHT BEHIND US! IT'S THE *X-MEN!*

QUIET, YOU EMOTIONAL FOOL! I HEARD THE ENTIRE THING! EVEN *NOW* I'M ARRANGING FOR THEIR FINAL DEFEAT!

BY MEANS OF THIS MAGNETIC INTENSIFIER, I HAVE INCREASED MY MAGNETIC POWER SO THAT I CAN MENTALLY CONTROL ANY METAL PORTION OF THIS ASTEROID! I'LL TURN MY ENTIRE HEADQUARTERS INTO A GIANT FLOATING DEATH TRAP!!

AND, TRUE TO HIS WORD, THE NEXT INSTANT...

CYCLOPS!! LOOK OUT! THAT PIECE OF METAL SHEETING IS DROPPING ON YOU AS THOUGH IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN!

MMPFF! I CAN'T SEE... I'M ABLE TO BREATHE... BUT CAN'T USE MY POWER RAY!!

I..I CAN'T TEAR IT OFF!! IT'S TOO STRONG! I'LL TRY MY OWN MENTAL POWER...

BUT BEFORE SHE CAN MAKE A MOVE..

ALL THESE THINGS HAPPENING... CONFUSING ME...

BEEEEEEP!

CAN'T CONCENTRATE! CAN'T USE THE POWER OF MY BRAIN!

THE ASTEROID ACTS LIKE IT'S *ALIVE!* WE'VE GOT TO HELP MARVEL GIRL!

IT'S *MAGNETO!* HE'S CONTROLLING EVERY BIT OF METAL THROUGH HIS AMAZING MENTAL POWERS! WE'VE GOT A *FIGHT* ON OUR HANDS!

THEN, AS IF TO *PROVE* THE BEAST'S WORDS, TINY FLAME JETS SHOOT OUT TOWARDS ICEMAN, BEGINNING TO MELT HIS PROTECTIVE COATING OF ICE!

WHERE'S *THIS* COMING FROM??

QUICK! HURL YOUR ICE BOLTS AT THE WALL... *NOW!!*

THE ICEMAN OBEYS INSTINCTIVELY, AND IN THE NEXT SECOND...

YOU *DID* IT! YOU FROZE THE FLAME JETS! I COMMEND YOU, MY FRIGID FRIEND!!

AND *I* THANK *YOU*, OL' BOOKWORM BUDDY!

DON'T WORRY, PRETTY PARTNER! I'LL FREE YOU FROM THOSE GIZMOS BY COATING 'EM WITH ICE AND CRYSTALLIZING THEM---LIKE *THIS!*

AND I'LL HAVE THAT PIECE OF METAL OFF YOU IN A TRICE, CYCLOPS! JUST EXCUSE MY DISHPAN HANDS, IF YOU WILL!

THEY'VE ESCAPED ALL MY TRAPS, BUT IT WILL DO THEM NO GOOD! AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, I'LL *SEAL* THEM IN THAT SECTION...

AND NOW, I'LL BLAST THEM RIGHT OUT OF THE AIR LOCK! FAREWELL, X-MEN...

NO, MAGNETO!! YOU CAN'T! YOU *MUSTN'T!*

BAH! DO YOU THINK *YOUR* WEAK WORDS CAN SWAY *MAGNETO?!*

WHA...?! YOU *WITCH!* YOU PUT A HEX ON MY CONTROL PANEL! YOU'VE SHORT-CIRCUITED IT!!

YOU *DARE* DEFY THE WILL OF *MAGNETO?!* I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON THAT...

YOU'LL DO *NOTHING* TO MY SISTER WHILE *QUICKSILVER* LIVES!

YOU THINK *YOU* CAN STOP ME?? YOU THINK YOU CAN STAND UP TO *MAGNETO*, THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT OF *ALL*?!!

I'LL DO WHAT I *HAVE* TO IN ORDER TO PROTECT MY SISTER, WANDA... REMEMBER THAT!

BE CAREFUL, PIETRO! I FEAR WE ARE *STILL* NO MATCH FOR HIM!!

BUT, WE ARE DESTINED NEVER TO KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED NEXT, FOR AT THAT INSTANT, A MIGHTY *FORCE BEAM* BLASTS THE DOOR RIGHT OFF ITS HINGES!

WE FORGOT THE *X-MEN*! THEY'VE CRASHED THROUGH!

GET *BACK*, WANDA!! TAKE COVER! IT IS THAT ACCURSED *CYCLOPS*, AND HIS POWER BEAM!

QUICKSILVER, LISTEN TO ME! YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR THE WRONG CAUSE! DESERT MAGNETO...JOIN THE X-MEN!

I *HATE* MAGNETO...MORE THAN ANYONE KNOWS! BUT HE ONCE SAVED MY SISTER'S LIFE! I *MUST* SERVE HIM!

BUT DON'T YOU *SEE*? HE'S MAKING *CRIMINALS* OUT OF YOU AND THE SCARLET WITCH! IF YOU JOIN *US*, WE COULD..

NO MORE!! I'LL HEAR NO MORE! YOU'RE TRYING TO CONFUSE US! *YOU'RE* NOT OUR FRIENDS, EITHER! IF YOU *WERE*, YOU WOULDN'T FIGHT US! WE CAN'T TRUST *ANYONE*!

YOU WERE TOO CARELESS! YOU CAME TOO NEAR! NOW I'VE *GOT* YOU!

GIVE UP, QUICKSILVER! DON'T MAKE ME USE MY POWER BEAM ON YOU!

QUICK! PUT A *HEX* ON CYCLOPS!

THEY'RE TOO *CLOSE*! IT MIGHT HURT *QUICKSILVER*!

MEANTIME, THE OTHER X-MEN DESPERATELY TRY TO FREE THE CAPTURED ANGEL, REALIZING THAT EVERY SECOND SPENT PLACES THEM IN STILL GREATER DANGER!!

IT'S UNBREAKABLE GLASS, BUT I CAN FEEL IT GIVING! JUST A FEW MORE THUMPS MAY DO IT!

HOLD IT, HANK! LET ME TRY IT... MY WAY! I CAN MENTALLY HURL ONE OF THESE HEAVY CHEMICAL TANKS AT THE GLASS WITH EVEN GREATER FORCE!!

YOU DID IT! HE CAN EXTRICATE HIMSELF NOW!

I KNEW YOU'D FREE ME!! BUT YOU'RE IN GRAVE PERIL! MAGNETO CAN TURN THIS ENTIRE ASTEROID INTO ONE GIANT DEATH TRAP!!

THE SUSPICION IS BEGINNING TO DAWN ON US THAT HIS MOTIVES ARE NOT THE FRIENDLIEST!

BUT, PERHAPS WE CAN INSTILL SOME OF THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS IN HIS... SAY! WHAT HAVE WE HERE??!

DON'T LET IT THROW YOU! IT MUST BE ONE OF MASTERMIND'S IMAGES... WATCH! I'LL PROVE IT!!

AND, NOW, TALL, DARK, AND GRUESOME, WE'VE GOT A LITTLE SETTLING UP TO DO, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL GET STARTED!

HURRY, MASTERMIND... DON'T LET HIM GET YOU! TOO BAD YOU CAN'T HOP AWAY FROM YOUR ENEMIES LIKE THE TOAD!

NO! NO! STAY BACK!

BUT THE SOUNDS OF CONFLICT HAVE REACHED MAGNETO'S EARS, AND SO...

STOP YOUR WHINING, MASTERMIND! MY DART GRENADE WILL SAVE YOU!

X-MEN! LOOK OUT! IT EXPLODED INTO A THOUSAND FLYING DARTS!!

THEY'RE FASTER THAN I THOUGHT! THEY ALL SAVED THEMSELVES BY TAKING COVER! BUT AT LEAST I SLOWED THEIR ATTACK!

WAIT!! THAT RUMBLING SOUND!! CAN IT BE WHAT I THINK??!

IT *IS*!! THE ASTEROID IS BREAKING UP!! DURING THE BATTLE SOMEONE MUST HAVE BRUSHED AGAINST SOME OF THE DETONATE BUTTONS!! BUT, I SHALL TURN THIS TO MY ADVANTAGE!

SAVE ME, MAGNETO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

SILENCE, TOAD! IT IS THE *X-MEN* WHO SHOULD BE FEARFUL! *THEY'RE* THE ONES WHO ARE DOOMED!

FIRST, WE MUST GET THEM TOGETHER, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AIR LOCK!

AHH, THERE'S *CYCLOPS!* I'LL START WITH *HIM!*

NOW! BEFORE HE CAN USE HIS POWER BEAM!!

FORGIVE ME FOR ATTACKING YOU FROM BEHIND, BUT *WE* DON'T FIGHT BY ANY RULES!

THERE! STAY BEHIND THE AIR CHAMBER WITH YOUR WRETCHED PARTNERS! I LEAVE YOU TO EMPTY SPACE!!

MAGNETO, NO!! YOU'RE MAKING A *MISTAKE!*

IT'S NO USE, TOAD! HE DOESN'T HEAR YOU!

THE X-MEN *AREN'T* BEHIND THE AIR LOCK! THEY'RE STILL IN *THIS* SECTION WITH *US!*

THEN WE'LL FINISH *THEM* LATER! AT LEAST THE *CYCLOPS* WILL NEVER BOTHER US AGAIN!

BUT THE *X-MEN* NEVER DESERT ONE OF THEIR OWN, AND SO...

I'VE GOT TO FLY TO SCOTT BEFORE THAT SECTION CRUMBLES BENEATH HIM AND HE PLUNGES TO EARTH!

WAIT! I'LL *HELP* YOU!

THERE! I FASHIONED A TUBULAR *ICE BRIDGE* FOR YOU...IT'LL PROTECT YOU BOTH FROM THE BITTER COLD OUT THERE!!

SCOTT! SCOTTY BOY! DO YOU HEAR ME? I'M COMING, FELLA! HANG ON!

Y-YOU WERE JUST IN TIME, WARREN! THE FRAGMENT WAS CRUMBLING... I COL'LD JUST BARELY KEEP FROM FALLING!!

YOU'RE OKAY, NOW, PARTNER! BUT WE'RE STILL NOT IN THE CLEAR! BOTH SECTIONS ARE STARTING TO SPLIT APART!

SECONDS AFTER THE X-MEN AGAIN JOIN FORCES, THE SATELLITE, ALREADY WEAKENED BY THE STRESSES IT HAS UNDERGONE, BREAKS FREE OF ITS ORBIT IN ONE FINAL EXPLOSION!

BUT, BEFORE DRIFTING OUT INTO AIR-LESS SPACE, IT LAUNCHES A SILENT, MAGNETICALLY-POWERED ESCAPE SHIP... CONTAINING FIVE WEARY BUT TRIUMPHANT X-MEN!

NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!!

THEN, AS THE TEEN-AGERS REACH SAFETY...

MAGNETO AND HIS MUTANTS MUST STILL BE UP THERE... IT'S RETURN-ING FOR THEM!

IT'S RISING AGAIN... BY REMOTE CONTROL!

MAGNETO CAN CONTROL ITS COURSE MENTALLY! THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE HE'LL LAND!

IF THE EVIL MUTANTS SURVIVED, THIS WAS ONLY THE SECOND ROUND!! THEY'LL BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!

AND SO WILL WE, JEAN! WE PROVED OUR METTLE TODAY! BY OURSELVES!

FINALLY, UPON RETURNING TO THEIR SCHOOL...

I'LL GIVE THE PROFESSOR OUR REPORT...

NO NEED TO, SCOTT! I WAS WITH YOU ALL THE TIME... LISTENING TO YOUR THOUGHTS!

YOU MEAN... YOU HAVE YOUR MENTAL POWER BACK?!

I NEVER LOST IT! I ONLY PRETENDED TO, AFTER OUR FIRST BATTLE WITH THE EVIL MUTANTS!

BUT... WHY, SIR?

REMEMBER, THIS IS A SCHOOL! AND YOU CAN'T GRADUATE FROM ANY SCHOOL WITHOUT PASSING YOUR FINAL EXAM! WELL, YOU'VE ALL JUST TAKEN YOUR FINAL EXAM... JUST AS I PLANNED IT!

AND I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT YOU'VE ALL PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS! YOU'VE PROVEN YOU CAN THINK AND ACT FOR YOURSELVES!! YOUR TRAINING PERIOD IS OVER!! CONGRATULATIONS, MY X-MEN!!

EDITOR'S NOTE: NOW THAT THEIR TRAINING IS ENDED, EVEN GREAT-ER DANGERS AWAIT THEM! FOR THE STRANGE SAGA OF THE X-MEN IS JUST BEGINNING!! STAN AND JACK HAVE A MILLION SURPRISES IN STORE FOR YOU...SO BE WITH US NEXT ISH! SEE YOU THEN!

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MINUTEMEN

Blunt

Brian Azzarello